

# ETHIOPIA

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Revenue stamps were originally prepared by Waterlow in the 1930s, perhaps as a sales exercise. Specimen stamps exist from this time (note the use of Winchester Security paper on the 5c), but shortages of funds in the Ethiopian treasury and then the Italian invasion meant that stamps of this design were not put into use until printed (in new colours) for distribution in 1948.

After the Italian invasion of Ethiopia on 1936, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somaliland were combined administratively, and revenues of Italian East Africa (and also the 1939 Africa Italiana issue) were used in Ethiopia.

At the end of 1941 British troops and local resistance fighters liberated most of Ethiopia. Britain recognised Ethiopia's full sovereignty, under the leadership of Haile Selassie, confirmed by the Anglo-Ethiopian Agreement of 1944. Regular revenue stamps (printed in new colours) came into use in 1948.

In 1952 a federation was formed with Eritrea, with the latter coming under full Ethiopian control. This sparked the Eritrean war of independence which continued sporadically for many years and produced great hardship.

In 1974 a Russian-backed group of officers, the Derg, seized power. Haile Selassie was deposed and a one-party communist state, the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, was established.

Drought, uprisings and the Ogaden war continued, and eventually in 1991 the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front captured Addis Ababa. Despite a further Ethiopian-Eritrean war 1998-2000 and further regional secessionist uprisings, the same regime has survived in power for the past 20 years, with some revival of Ethiopia's economy.

# ETHIOPIA 1942 PROVISIONALS

These overprints were made on contemporary postage stamps of 1942 following the liberation of Ethiopia by British troops. The overprint "7 n." is Amharic, reading "Gebii" = "Due". Some may have been used as postage dues but it is believed the purpose of the overprint was wider, to collect any administrative charges or small taxes, e.g. customs duty. These were reported in Doig's Ethiopian Stamp website.



1942. Gebii overprint on postage stamp.  
 1. 10c black & carmine ..... RRR



1942. Gebii overprint plus slanting red bars through previous value.  
 2. 5c on 4c black & turquoise ..... RRR  
 2a. Gebii ovpt omitted ..... RRR



1942. Gebii overprint below portrait, two bars through old value, and new surcharge at sides, most in black, some in red (R). For these red overprints, all elements of the overprint and bars are in red.  
 3. 0.05 on 4c black & turquoise ..... RRR  
 3a. red ovpt ..... RRR

4. 0.10 on 4c black & turquoise ..... RRR  
 4a. red ovpt ..... RRR  
 5. 0.10 on 8c black & orange ..... RRR  
 6. 0.50 on 8c black & orange ..... RRR  
 7. 0.50 on 12c black & purple(R) ..... RRR  
 8. \$1 on 8c black & orange ..... RRR  
 9. \$5 on 8c black & orange ..... RRR  
 10. \$10 on 8c black & orange ..... RRR

## ETHIOPIA REVENUE



1948. Lion of Judah. Recess (line engraved) by Waterlow. Design originally prepared in the 1930s by Waterlow but unissued then. Currency in Maria Theresa Dollars, value in three lines in lower corners. No wmk. Perf 12½.

1. 5c blue ..... 5.00  
 2. 10c violet ..... 5.00  
 3. 20c yellow ..... 5.00  
 4. 25c sepia ..... 5.00  
 5. 50c carmine ..... 7.50  
 6. 1MTD purple-brown ..... 7.50  
 7. 2MTD carmine ..... 10.00  
 8. 3MTD purple ..... 20.00  
 9. 5MTD yellow-brown ..... 20.00  
 10. 10MTD grey ..... 35.00



1952. Similar design, but value (in two lines in lower corners) in Ethiopian Dollars. Recess (line engraved) by Waterlow. Perf variously 12 to 13 (several printings).

11. 5c ultramarine ..... 5.00  
 12. 10c violet ..... 5.00  
 13. 25c olive-green ..... 5.00  
 14. 50c carmine ..... 7.50  
 15. \$1 sepia-black ..... 10.00  
 16. \$2 red ..... 20.00  
 17. \$3 violet ..... 20.00  
 18. \$5 yellow-brown ..... 20.00  
 19. \$10 green ..... 25.00



c1953. Similar design, bicolour issue. Printing by Waterlow.

20. 5c ultramarine & pink ..... 10.00  
 21. 10c purple & pale green ..... 10.00  
 22. 50c red & pale blue ..... 10.00  
 23. \$1 purple-brown & pale green ..... 25.00  
 24. \$2 red & yellow ..... 25.00

25. \$3 purple & buff ..... 25.00  
 26. \$5 red & yellow ..... 25.00  
 27. \$10 green & rose ..... 35.00



c1974. Provisional Military Government.

28. 5c blue & rose ..... 15.00  
 29. 10c purple & yellow ..... 15.00  
 30. 25c brown & pale blue ..... 15.00  
 31. 1 Birr purple-brown & pale green .. 20.00  
 32. 5 Birr brown & yellow ..... 20.00  
 33. 10 Birr green & pale pink ..... 25.00



c1980. People's Democratic Republic issue (Derg administration).

35. 5c ultramarine & pink ..... 10.00  
 36. 10c violet & pale blue-green ..... 10.00  
 37. 10c claret & pale green ..... 10.00  
 38. 20c red & yellow ..... 10.00  
 39. 50c red & pale blue ..... 10.00  
 40. 1 Birr claret & pale green ..... 15.00  
 41. 2 Birr red & yellow ..... 20.00  
 42. 3 Birr green & yellow ..... 20.00  
 43. 10 Birr green & pink ..... 20.00  
 44. 20 Birr orange & pale blue ..... 25.00



1996. Similar design but pentangle arms.

50. 1 Birr orange & pale green ..... 5.00  
 51. 2 Birr red & yellow ..... 5.00  
 52. 5 Birr purple & yellow ..... 5.00  
 53. 10 Birr green & pink ..... 7.50  
 54. 20 Birr orange & pale blue ..... 10.00

# ETHIOPIA ALCOHOL

Affixed to tops of bottles, and torn on opening. Most surviving examples are archive examples or printer's trials.



c1950. As illustration but unsurcharged, cent values known only from printing records.  
(1. 10c)  
(2. 25c)

(3. 50c)  
(4. \$1 green)



c1950. With tab at left. Recess printed (Waterlow). Serial number in black. Imperf three sides. perf between stamp and tab.  
(7. \$25)  
8. \$50 orange ..... 35.00  
(9. \$100)



c1955. Inscribed ALCOHOL PROD. TAX. Main value at left, supplementary tax shown in centre. With serial number in colour of stamp (those with number 0000000 or without number are proofs or archive examples). Perforation in shape of "X" through right hand part of stamp.  
10. 8c + 2c blue-black ..... 10.00  
11. 9c + 3c blue ..... 10.00  
12. 15c + 5c violet ..... 10.00  
13. 20c + 5c yellow ..... 10.00  
14. 20c + 5c deep blue ..... 10.00  
15. 23c + 7c black ..... 10.00  
(16. 25c + ?c green)  
17. 85c + 20c yellow-olive ..... 10.00  
18. \$1.20 + 30c carmine ..... 15.00  
19. \$1.25 + 25c maroon ..... 15.00  
20. \$3.50 + 30c maroon ..... 20.00  
21. \$4 + \$3 green ..... 25.00



c1955. Inscribed ALCOHOL TAX, thicker frame border. Value at both ends. With serial number (those with number 0000000 or without number are proofs or archive examples). Perforation in shape of "X" through right hand part of stamp.

- 25. 12c turquoise ..... 10.00
- 26. 12c deep blue ..... 10.00
- 27. 20c violet ..... 10.00
- 28. 25c yellow ..... 10.00
- 29. \$1.50 carmine ..... 15.00



c1960. Value in panel with rounded corners (English version at right). Serial number in black in the centre (those with number 0000000 or without number are proofs or archive examples). Security perforation in shape of "L TAX" through centre, or "I TAX" at left, or wide perforation "X" at right or at each end.

- 40. 10c blue ..... 10.00
- 41. 15c purple-brown ..... 10.00
- 42. 25c violet-blue ..... 10.00
- 43. 25c purple-brown ..... 10.00
- 44. 25c turquoise ..... 10.00
- 45. 25c yellow ..... 10.00
- 45a. orange ..... 10.00
- 46. \$1.25 carmine ..... 15.00
- 47. \$1.50 dark green ..... 15.00
- 48. \$2.50 green ..... 20.00
- 49. \$3 sepia ..... 20.00





c1965. Surcharges, in black, or in red (R).  
 #21 with two shorter bars, #22 with one long bar over previous value.  
 50. 25c on 15c purple-brown ..... 20.00  
 51. \$2.50 on \$1 green ..... 25.00  
 52. \$2.50 on \$1 green (R) ..... 25.00

## ETHIOPIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Apparently used as a grain tax transport permit fee stamp, issued by the Addis Abeba Chamber of Commerce, with denomination by weight (T = tons?), applied to the driver's door of grain trucks. Strictly speaking, a taxpaid, not a revenue stamp.



1949. Engraved printing by Bradbury Wilkinson.

- 1. 1QL claret & yellow ..... 10.00
- 2. 5QX violet & pale blue ..... 10.00
- 3. 1T blue & rose ..... 10.00
- 4. 5T brown & green ..... 10.00
- 5. 5T brown & green ..... 15.00
- 6. 10T green & violet ..... 15.00
- 7. 25T blue & violet (1961) ..... 20.00
- 8. 50T green & buff (1961) ..... 25.00

## ETHIOPIA MUNICIPAL

### JIJIGA

Customs Dues (salt tax?) were collected at Jijiga, a town on the frontier near Djibouti. Currency 16 Piastres = 1 Thaler was in use 1908-1928, the Thaler continued to 1936 but with Mehaleks as the smaller unit. Images of some of these stamps kindly supplied by Joe Ross.



1/4Th



1/2Th





c1920. Typeset in black on faintly tinted paper (which varies slightly for each value). 2Th with inscription at top, the 5Pi with no inscription, others with inscription at both sides. The "40" seen on the 10Th illus is a sheet number, similar printed or manus numbers seen on other values. Pinperf (imperf at sheet edge).

- |                                   |       |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| 1. 1Pi black on buff .....        | 20.00 |
| 2. 2Pi black on violet-grey ..... | 20.00 |
| 3. 4Pi black on violet-grey ..... | 20.00 |
| 4. 5Pi black on buff .....        | 20.00 |
| 5. 10Pi black on buff .....       | 20.00 |
| 6. 15Pi black on buff .....       | 20.00 |
| 7. ¼Th black on salmon-grey ..... | 20.00 |
| 8. ½Th black on grey-buff .....   | 20.00 |
| 9. 1Th black on grey-buff .....   | 20.00 |
| 10. 2Th black on grey-buff .....  | 20.00 |
| 11. 10Th black on grey-buff ..... | 25.00 |
| 12. 50Th black on grey-buff ..... | 35.00 |



c1930. Similar design but framed border.

- |                                   |       |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| 15. 2Th black on grey-buff .....  | 20.00 |
| 16. 10Th black on grey-buff ..... | 25.00 |
| 17. 50Th black on grey-buff ..... | 25.00 |